



Dear ,

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0543

On 16/05/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

How many children under the age of 18 were arrested on suspicion of possession of an article with blade or point in a public place in the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively? Please provide a breakdown showing the number of arrests for each age group for each year (e.g. four suspects aged 14; seven suspects aged 15, etc.).

How many children under the age of 18 were subsequently charged with the offence of Possession of an article with blade or point in a public place for each of the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022?

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information.

Unfortunately it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested.

The primary function of the Constabulary's Arrest Recording System is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, its reporting function is limited. The system does not record detentions under specific offences under the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded crimes; instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. Unfortunately there is no single RFA Category for the offence(s) you have stated above. Although it's possible to follow an arrest through to a recorded crime and the police outcome per individual, it's not possible to retrieve electronic statistics. Therefore in order to ascertain if any relevant arrest information is recorded, a manual review of hundreds of records would be required. This would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

In relation to your request Section 12 applies.

Section 12(1) – Fee Regulations states:

Section 1(1) of the Act does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would

exceed the appropriate limit. (As detailed in the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Fees Regulations of 2004)

The appropriate limit at the moment is £450 calculated at an hourly rate of £25 per hour for all staff time incurred in:

- i. Determining whether information is held
- ii. Locating it
- iii. Retrieving it
- iv. Extracting the information to be disclosed from the other information.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for your request.

Providing Information Outside of the Act

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I can confirm the following information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

I can confirm that the Constabulary's knife crime dataset has been searched for crimes recorded from 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2023 whereby the offence of 8/26 - Having an article with a blade or point in a public place or 8/27 - Having an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises was recorded and the suspect/offender was aged under 18.

The results are as follows:

Age	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
10 and under	1	0	0	1	1	3
11 to 13	6	9	4	4	7	30
14 to 15	15	7	10	12	10	54
16 to 17	7	5	13	12	15	52

No of Police Outcomes	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Det Charge / Summons	4	4	7	11	9	35

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary